

# POOR IS THE HORSE THAT CANNOT HAVE ITS SUMMER HAT

## Many Varieties of Head C.

ring for the Patient and Willing Servant of Man, But Few That Really Accomplish What Is Desired—The Old Reliable Sponge Still the Best Device for Protecting the Equine Head From the Rays of the Sun and Keeping Off the Effects of the Summer Heat \*

WHEN you see a horse hitched to any sort of vehicle stop and crane its neck at a bright show window on any of Washington's streets you can take it for granted that some especially fancy bit of horse millinery has caught its eye. The displays in that line are unique this year and gorgeous to a degree; in fact, they rival the array set forth for the fair sex and the depletion of the purses of the sterner portion of humanity.

As in the fashions for women, so in those for equines, Paris leads the procession. But Washington, not being far behind Paris in some things, and especially in millinery styles, will doubtless be able, if all indications come true, to give the French metropolis pointers on horse hats also. Some of the brightest minds and the most artistic have been engaged to turn out the most rakish headgear for horses, and the results are something almost beyond belief. There are inventors in the National Capital and elsewhere who have the welfare of the horse at heart and also on the brain. Not being content with seeing that the animals have been provided with hats and bonnets to keep their foreheads from being tanned, they are diligently at work trying to devise a new sort of appliance in the form of a hat that will combine all sorts of comforts for the equine.

There are hats and hats and their bonnets. There are sweet little bonnets for the gray and skittish colts, tall hats for race horses, flat hats for elderly equines, bonnets for the very aged and pokes for those who like that sort of thing. And then there are the persons who have utterly no judgment in the matter, and who dress their horses up in any old thing that happens to be at hand, and which will pass at a pinch for a hat. The variety is great, and the trimming may also be as elaborate as the fancy of the owner may desire.

### Some Are Elaborate.

Many of the hats to be seen on horses on the streets of Washington daily during the hot weather are well worth careful examination. Some are trimmed with ruffles of ribbon and have little knobs and clusters of flowers placed coquettishly at the side. In some cases the horses having this superfluity of rakish adornment become wise, and a grin of placid contentment settles upon their countenances and extends from ear to ear. Other hats are as plain in appearance as Quaker bonnets or the sort generally worn by farmers in all parts of the country. Many times ribbons, laces, and flowers are piled on the straw foundations with reckless extravagance. There is no limit to the expense of the things to those who wish to attire their equines in the latest styles, and the millionaire can get his favorite mare a hat that will rival that of his wife if he so desires.

Generally these specimens of equine headgear are of straw. Trimmings and further adornments come afterward. The straw portion of the hat is usually similar to that form of cheap straw hat known as the "hayseed hat," and which can be purchased at any ordinary men's furnishing store where countrymen are wont to deal. There are, of course, different styles and shapes of these horse hats, but in the main they adhere pretty closely to those worn by members of the human family in the rural districts of the country.

When the demand for horse bonnets became general last year harness manufacturers bought up thousands of coarse straw hats intended for the use of man, cut more or less neat holes in the brims for the ears of the horses, bound the hats with cheap cloth, attached streamers to tie under the horses' throats, and sent the improvised sunshades to dealers in horse millinery throughout the entire country.

But this year such crude affairs will

not answer the purpose. Owners of horses and the equines themselves have grown more hightened. Only the "old nag" or cart "plug" of some poor old colored resident, who cannot afford to do better by his beast, is obliged to content himself with such out-of-date headgear. The well-bred animal, the property of a well-to-do man or woman, is exacting these days. He is loath to appear on the streets of the National Capital with any old thing on his head. He must have the very latest head covering. Perhaps, after a while, he will demand a mirror in which to see that his new bonnet is on straight, and require a maid to aid him in adjusting it to suit his fancy or complexion.

### Its Origin in Doubt.

Authorities differ as to the exact origin of the horse hat. But it is generally acknowledged that the first which was ever seen of them was on a small, ancient-looking donkey at Atlantic City, the property of the erstwhile "Hokey-pokey Sam," one of the typical characters of the city by the sea, half a dozen years ago. Samuel had his diminutive donkey attached to a dilapidated and gaudily painted two-wheeled cart, which contained the precious hokey-pokey freezers. His place of business was all along the beach. In order to protect his animal from the withering rays of the sun which beat down upon the glaring grayish-white sand, the redoubtable Samuel cut two holes in an enormous straw hat of the "hayseed" variety and secured the thing upon the donkey's head by means of broad scarlet ribbons brought down and tied in a huge bow under the chin. Between the hat and the gaudy display of ribbon nothing was visible of the beast's head and neck save two enormous ears which flapped about through two holes in the brim of the improvised headgear.

Utility, rather than beauty, characterized the sun bonnets used previous to the present season. Some inventive genius has now produced a hat which, so far as pure usefulness is concerned, is superior to them all. It is what might be termed a "double-decker." It is made of canvas or some similar material, and is in two parts, one being raised a couple of inches above the other to allow air to circulate freely about the animal's head. At the same time it shades the horse's cranium and is constructed in such a manner that it protects the beast's brain better than the majority of these horse hats. This form of hat is used extensively by the Union Baggage Transfer Company in this city, all the horses of that concern being supplied with them.

### Elaborate Coiffures in Vogue.

According to Paris and Washington horse milliners, elaborate coiffures are to be the vogue this year. Foretops are to be crimped and curled in a variety of fashions, but the accepted form is a straight bang, falling just below the hat. Small braids are also in vogue. Most of the hats seen on the streets of Washington have strings to tie them on with, but those who prefer can fasten the headgear on with hatpins.

Such of the new headgear as is not made of straw is constructed of canvas, usually gorgeously colored, which is

fitted over a frame not unlike the frame used in the manufacture of expensive millinery for women. These new canvas bonnets are of a shape better adapted to the use of horses than the improvised hats of last season. Then, many of the new bonnets have fly-nets for the horses' ears attached to the crown, thus combining a sun-shade and a fly-net for the head. Fine straws and canvas of good quality and color have found their way into horse hats and bonnets. The gaudy red calico which bound the coarse straw bonnets of last season has been replaced by cloths of fine texture and modest colors. Many of the bonnets designed for the use of roadsters are smaller and much more shapely than the great sunshades made for work horses.

All of which may be outdone by the man who has an exuberant love for the Stars and Stripes. The American who desires to be patriotic can find horse bonnets made of the national colors and generously sprinkled with stars and stripes. Green bonnets may be had by Irishmen, and Boer sympathizers may purchase sunshades which bear the flag of the Transvaal. To be explicit, the flags of all nations may be found on the bonnets kept by local horse furnishers.

With the advent of the horse hat the green branches and bunches of leaves which were formerly used as sunshades by humbly-inclined rustics have disappeared. The bonnet and hat have been accepted as permanent institutions, and the temporary makeshift has been displaced.

A very fetching thing for a coltish young animal is a bonnet tied on with wide streamers. A cluster of flowers



Scientific as Well as Stylish.



Treating a Horse for Sunstroke.



The Old Reliable Sponge.



Homely But Helpful.

fingers can make over one of these hats in a very little time and at no cost to speak of.

### The Panama Next.

Dame Rumor has it in Washington that the correct and fashionable hat for horses next year will be the Panama, as it is said that headgear will not be fashionable for men any longer than this year. In this way a great many of the hats will be able to serve two donkeys, the first year a two-legged and the second year a three-legged animal.

Time was when any old hat was good enough for the Washington horse. But that time has passed. Now there are hats for all sorts and conditions of horses and mules. The truck horse may wear a plain, slouch straw hat with red braid around the earholes and edges, and the carrette horse may wear an asbestos hat, or some other inedible substance. But your true plutocratic horse will have something more elaborate. A swell silk beaver, with earholes through the sides of the crown, or a fashionable poke bonnet will be the correct thing for him. Then, of course, the lady's driving horse will wear a handsome picture hat with flowers and ostrich plumes galore, while the war horse will possess the ordinary felt cavalry hat, commonly pictured as the "Teddy" style. Washington's Fire Department equines will be provided with the old castoff metal firemen's helmets. The farm horse will wear his owner's second best straw, and the cart or ash wagon animal will be doomed to the castoffs of his master's wardrobe.

### Electric Fan Also.

Nor will matters rest here. Several Washingtonians are working upon new types of hats and bonnets that will tend to prevent sunstroke and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the horse. In the first place they have designed hats that will be light, becoming, and comfortable. Beyond this, they are contriving a little traveling electric plant, which will provide a little electric motor in the top of the hat. This will propel a fan to keep the horse's head cool and at the same time blow a number of little colored ribbons at a

brisk rate over his neck and back to shoo away the flies. Later they may devise some little tubes to run cold air to all parts of the equine's body and thus not only keep the animal cool, but also keep away the flies. Oh, they have it all down to a science nowadays.

### Felt "Pancake" Style.

But most sensible and serviceable of all the numerous hats and bonnets that have been devised is the felt "pancake" hat, which has as yet come to be but scantily used in the Capital City. This is a sort of flat felt covering for the head that ties on in exactly the right spot to protect the brain. It does not, as is the case with most of the horse hats, cover the back part of the head alone and leave the part that should be covered exposed.

A wet sponge, properly applied and kept constantly moist, is also an excellent thing to protect the horse's brain from the fierce rays of the summer sun. But the trouble is that so few people know exactly where the equine's brain

or drive horses know where the brain is located. They ignorantly place the hat or sponge upon the back of the equine's head, just behind the ears, and imagine that it is over the brain. But as a matter of fact, there is nothing there under the flesh but an almost solid mass of bone. The brain of a horse is located in the front of the head, just above the eyes and below the ears.

### Wet Sponge the Best.

"If you wish to protect the horse's brain from the sun at all, the best thing, in my opinion, to do is to use a wet sponge. You can't well get a covering that will protect his whole spine, and you can protect his head fairly well. If a sponge is used, it should be a large one, of good quality, capable of holding water for quite a while. It should be tied on the forehead of the animal and kept quite moist. The next best thing is the canvas double-decker hat. It allows the air to circulate well about the head, and, if placed so as to protect the forehead of the horse and not his



Inclined to be Fashionable.

is located, and consequently place the sponge where it is of no earthly value.

Through the courtesy of Dr. H. W. Acheson, the well-known veterinary surgeon for the Littlefield & Alvord Company, the Sunday Times was able to secure the accompanying illustrations.

"What do you think of the hat as a means of protecting the horse from the heat?" asked the Times representative of Dr. Acheson.

"Speaking from my experience with them," was the reply, "I firmly believe that hats and bonnets as they are generally used upon horses are of little practical value, and are often even injurious to the animal."

### Should Protect Spine.

"Well, in the first place, the nervous system of a horse is entirely different from that of a person, and these hats merely answer about the same purpose that the hats men wear. In a man the brain predominates over the spinal column, and as a man walks upright and his head is the part of his body mostly directly exposed to the rays of the sun it is necessary for him to wear a hat in order to shade his brain and protect himself. In a horse, however, the spinal column predominates over the brain, and the fact that the horse walks in a horizontal position with his whole spinal column directly exposed to the action of the sun makes it necessary for some protection to be afforded his entire back before he is benefited by any covering at all.

"So you can see," continued Dr. Acheson, "that merely covering a horse's head with a hat does not benefit him and protect his nervous system to any extent. Still, a hat of the right sort and placed in the proper spot on the head will prove of some benefit. But the trouble is that few people who own

neck, will be of some value. The trouble with many of these close straw hats and bonnets is that they are fastened so tightly down upon the head as to entirely shut out the circulation of air, and in this way they are really more injurious than they are a benefit."

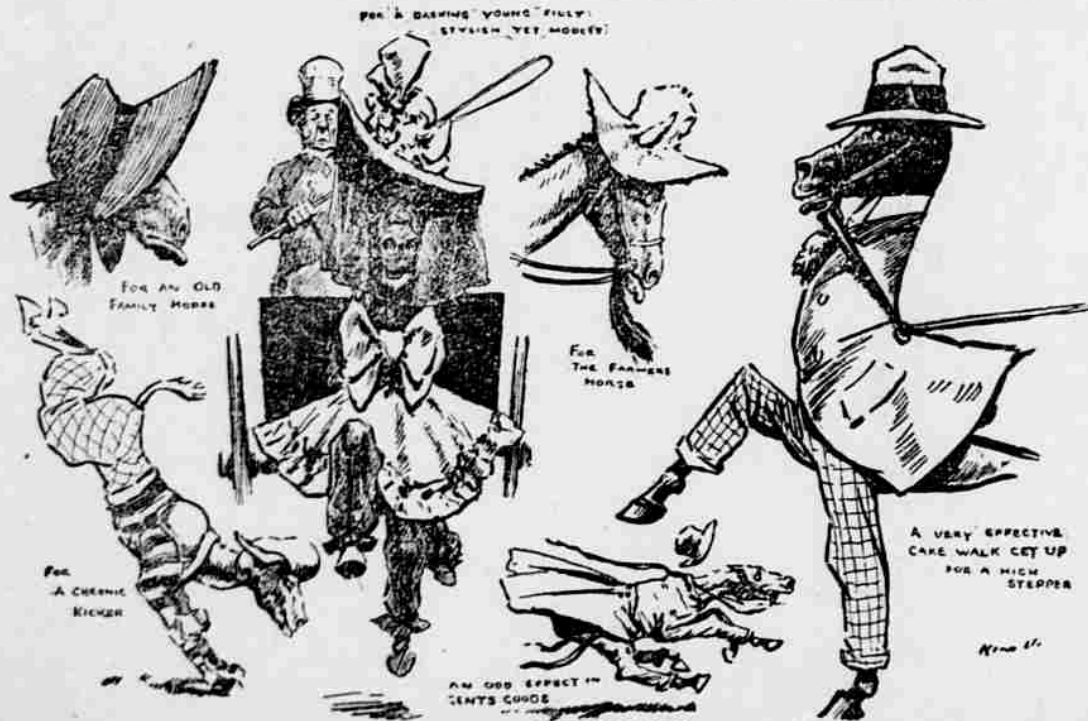
### Treatment for Sunstroke.

"How do you treat a horse when he has been overcome by the heat?" was asked.

"If he has been stricken while on the street, I endeavor to get him to the stables as quickly as possible. There are two veterinary ambulances in the city—the Knox Express Company has one, and also the Merchants' Parcel Delivery Company. But if I cannot get the horse to his stable, I try to remove him to the nearest vacant lot, where he can lie on the ground and be free from the heat of the asphalt streets. With the sun beaming down on a stricken animal, and the concrete on which he lies being about 135 degrees, there is little chance of recovery unless removed to a place where he can lie on merely the earth or on the grass."

"Stimulation forms the principal treatment of a stricken equine. Aromatic spirits of ammonia and tincture of capsicum mixed with water is the usual treatment. Ice packed around the head also serves to prevent brain fever. It is also a good thing to pour water freely over the whole body of the animal. If possible, a hose should be turned on the horse and the cold water allowed to flow all over him. This keeps his temperature down."

"Does a sun-stroke prove always fatal to a horse? Well, no; they nearly always recover with proper treatment. Still, they sometimes die. When the animal's temperature rises above 110 or 111 degrees the stroke usually proves fatal."



A GLANCE INTO THE FUTURE OF EQUINE WEAR.